

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, and 14-16 were previously the pending claims in this application. With this Amendment, claims 3 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, and 14-16 are now the pending claims in this application.

Applicants' representatives thank Examiner Young and Examiner Griffin for the courtesy extended to them in the telephonic interview on April 6, 2009.

Claims 1 and 11 are currently amended. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 6. Claim 1, as currently amended, incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of claim 3, which is also supported from original claim 6 in the parent PCT application WO 03/062176. Also, as discussed during the Examiner Interview, reference to "containing primary and secondary amino groups" has been amended to state "a method of making a sulphided ion exchange resin from an ion exchange resin containing primary or secondary amino groups" in the preamble and is removed from the thereby clause. Thus, claims 1 and 11 are amended to clarify that the sulphided ion exchange resin is formed from an ion exchange resin containing the amino groups which is subjected to treatment with elemental sulphur. See e.g., pg. 1, lines 17 and 18 ("We have found that ion exchange resins containing primary or secondary amino groups can absorb significant amount of elemental sulphur."). See also original claims 4 and 10 in the parent PCT application WO 03/062176. No new matter has been added.

As would be generally understood to one of ordinary skill in the art, in a partially sulphided ion exchange resin there may be remaining primary and secondary amino groups, but in a completely sulphided ion exchange resin there may be very little or no primary or secondary amino functionality left (e.g., it is the amino functionality with the sulphur that leads the resin to become sulphided). Applicants submit that there are no new issues requiring further consideration and search because only the preamble and thereby clause are modified. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added and there are no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

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Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 stand rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,592,523 ("Ayers") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,011,882 ("Nivens"). Claim 2 stands rejected as unpatentable over Ayers and Nivens and further in view of EP 0 319 615 ("Duisters") and U.S. Patent No. 6,221,241 ("Carnell"). Claims 9, 11, and 14-16 stand rejected as unpatentable over Ayers and Nivens and further in view of Duisters. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot because claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 14-16 are allowable as dependent thereon. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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